

Continued National Service: Michigan's Farmer Veterans Lead the Way

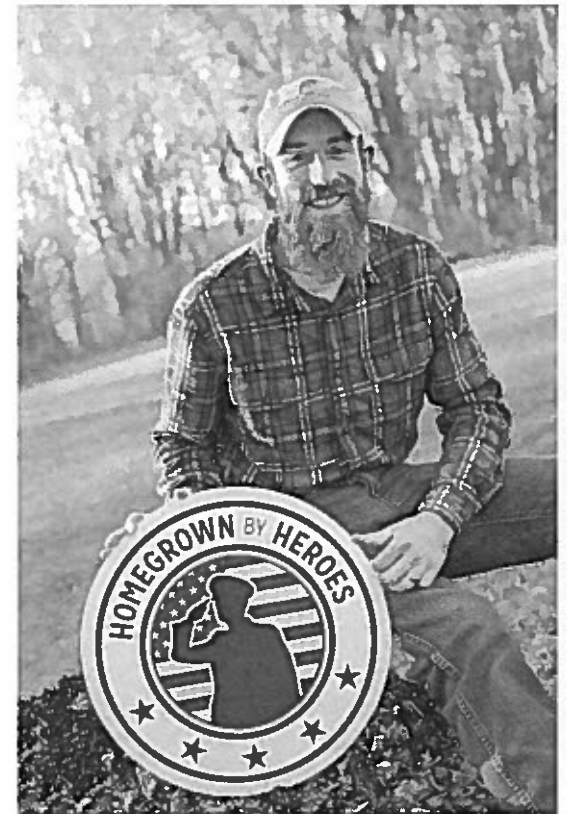


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Our Personal Stories:

- Dylan Thomas
 - Army Vet
 - Two Pines Farm – Marcellus, MI
 - 2015 FVC Fellow
 - FVC Regional Ambassador
 - FVC-MI President



Our Personal Stories:

- Adam Ingrao
 - Army Vet
 - National Science Foundation Fellow, MSU
 - Bee Wise Farms – Lansing, MI
 - 2015 FVC Fellow
 - FVC-MI Exec. Director



BEE WISE FARMS



What makes a veteran?

- Dedication to duty
- Selfless service
- Our investment
- Highly trained
- Leaders





What makes a farmer?

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- Selfless service
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Farmer Veteran Coalition

- National 501(c)3
 - Mobilize veterans to feed America
- Assisting veterans
 - Education
 - Resources
 - Marketing
 - Funding
 - Community





Education

- National Stakeholders Conference
- Empowering Women Veterans Conference

2015 FARMER VETERAN STAKEHOLDERS CONFERENCE

November 17 - 19 | Sacramento, CA



Resources

- Business development
- Financial resources
 - Kiva Loan program
- Legal counsel





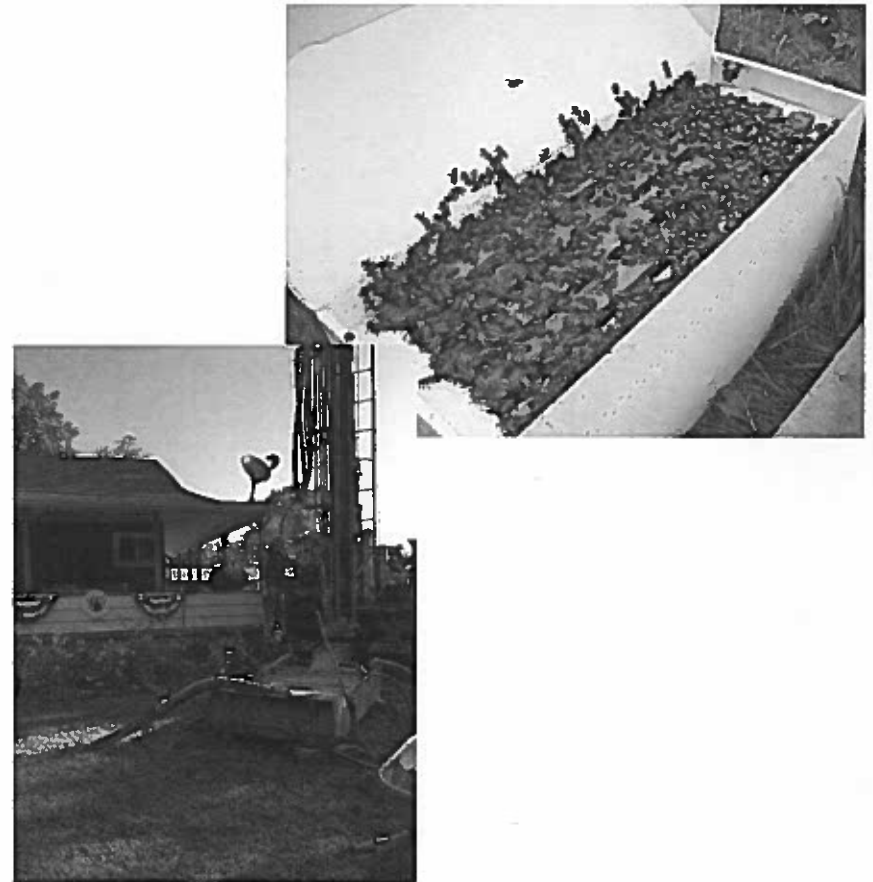
Marketing

- Homegrown By Heroes
- Promotion of member products



Funding

- FVC Fellowship Program
 - \$1,000 - \$5,000 grants
 - Infrastructure
 - Equipment
 - Education
 - Over \$1 million to farmer veterans since 2011



Benefits of Being a Fellow:

- Invitation and scholarship to the National Stakeholders Conference
- Opportunities to become a peer mentor for other farmer veterans
- FVC featuring your profile and farm in media outlets

2015 FARMER VETERAN
STAKEHOLDERS
CONFERENCE 

November 17 - 19 | Sacramento, CA



Benefits of Being a Fellow:

- Eligible for Geared to Give Program
 - Award 1 Kubota L series tractor every quarter



Community

- Vet-to-vet approach
- Support
- Mentorship
- Comradery
- Leadership





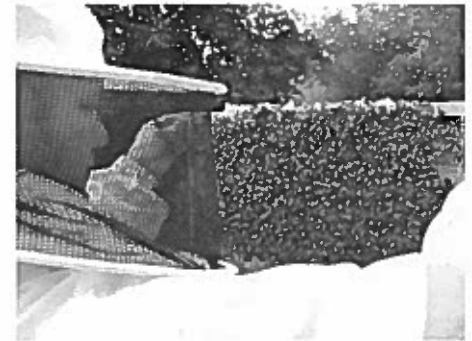
Farmer Veteran Coalition of Michigan

- State chapter of national FVC
- MI non-profit organization
- Boots on the ground for national programs
- Build farmer veteran community
- Direct outreach
 - MI Family Farms Conference
 - Great Lakes Expo
 - MVAA Vet Expos



Education

- Soil health workshop NRCS
- Integrated pest management
- Beginning beekeeping
- Pasture raised pork production
- **2016 Farmer Veteran National Stakeholders Conference**





Resources

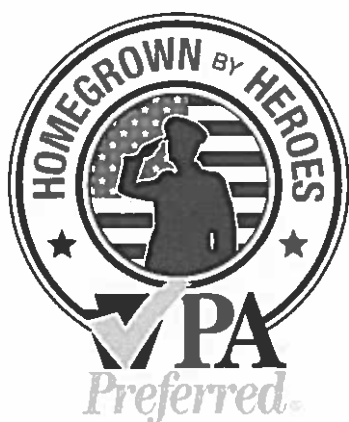
- Resource education
 - Programs available to vets
- Connecting with experts





Marketing

- Guide to MI Farmer Veteran Products
- Connect with buyers
- Michigan Homegrown by Heroes



Funding

- 2016 FVC-MI Fellowship Clinic
 - 44 participants
 - 29 completed fellowships
 - MI made up 15% of 2016 fellowship applications



Community

- Vet-to-vet support
- Farm visits
- Mentorship
- A network who cares





Partnering with MI organizations

- MI Farm Bureau
- MI Ag Council
- MI AgrAbility
- USDA-NRCS
- MAEAP
- MIFFS
- MSU

Michigan  Extension
AgrAbility

ag
michigan  council



Michigan Food &
Farming Systems - MIFFS
Supporting the Many Faces of Farming

FB
MICHIGAN
FARM BUREAU®



Michigan's Opportunity

- 2nd in ag diversity
- Robust ag industry
- Average age of MI farmer 56
- MI is a National Guard state
 - 660,000 veterans



MI has a unique opportunity!!!

- Address MI aging farmer population
- Secure skilled talent for MI ag industry
- Increase MI ag productivity
- Ensure MI food security
- Address MI veterans health and wellness
- **Ensure MI citizens and our ag industry thrive**





Thank You

www.farmvetco.org

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